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Ministry of
Agriculture, Food
and Fisheries

SERVICE PLAN
2005/06 – 2007/08

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

It has been another year of challenges for the ministry and the industry. Who could have predicted the agriculture industry would be dealing with the Avian Influenza crisis, the ongoing consequences of the United States border closure due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, and impacts of Sudden Oak Death on our nursery and landscape industries.

Once again, our agricultural industry has demonstrated perseverance and courage in responding positively to difficult issues. I applaud their dedication.

While the last few years have been ones of unprecedented challenge, there has also been significant progress in a number of vital areas. This year's ministry service plan lays out a clear vision of how we are carrying out our activities to build a stronger and more resilient and responsive industry for the future. We cannot do this alone and we are looking forward to promoting teamwork and co-operation among all orders of government, First Nations, agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sector groups and communities.

We are pleased to be working with the Ministry of Health Services on the ActNow B.C. initiative to encourage healthy eating. Our future objectives include strengthening bio-security in our poultry industry, fostering stronger value chains in our agri-food industries, instituting new wine quality standards, promoting B.C.'s bio-based economy and developing agri-tourism as we get closer to 2010.

We also see a strong future for all fisheries on the B.C. coast. Our government's position is clear: we will ensure our Pacific salmon are here for British Columbians... today and forever. We are proud of the work we have done this year to influence the federal government to institute significant reform of the commercial salmon fishery.

The 2005/06 – 2007/08 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of January 31, 2005 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.

John van Dongen

Honourable John van Dongen
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

January 31, 2005

Ministry Overview and Core Business Areas

The mandate of the ministry is to assist the agriculture, food and fisheries sectors to prosper and contribute to the British Columbia economy, while delivering high-quality and safe products to consumers within a context of environmental sustainability.

The ministry partners with federal agencies such as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Fisheries and Oceans of Canada (DFO), as well as numerous industry stakeholder organizations and other provincial agencies to fulfill its mandate. The partnership with the AAFC has been formalized with the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) and implementation agreements. Services and programs delivered by the ministry are divided into the following six core business areas:

1. Industry Competitiveness

Industry Competitiveness focuses on reducing regulatory burden for farm businesses, promoting industry self-reliance and encouraging competitiveness, providing online access to information and expertise, facilitating investment in the bio-based economy and influencing international and inter-provincial trade negotiations and disputes.

2. Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

Fisheries and Aquaculture Management promotes economic growth and environmental sustainability, harmonizes policies and regulations at the federal and provincial levels and strengthens monitoring and enforcement regimes. In addition, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management participates in coastal and marine planning, and builds awareness of fisheries and aquaculture practices and economic benefits.

3. Food Safety and Quality

Food Safety and Quality promotes science-based approaches to monitoring food production systems, from plant and animal health through to food safety and quality and product tracking (traceability) throughout the food production system.

4. Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development

Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development provides services and programs that improve industry management of soil, waste and water, promotes cooperation and understanding of farm and aquaculture practices within local government and communities, improves access to crown and agricultural resources and improves the fit between local regulations and agriculture and aquaculture activities.

5. Risk Management

Risk Management services and programs promote, develop and deliver risk management products such as the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization Program (CAIS) and Production Insurance. These products help to effectively manage on-farm risks and reduce the province's exposure to the associated financial risks.

6. Executive and Support Services

The core business area of Executive and Support Services broadly supports the five other core business areas. It consists of the Strategy, Policy and Legislation Services Division, the Corporate Services Division and the Deputy Minister's Office. Key services provided to the ministry include strategic planning, legislative and policy support, financial management, human resources and performance strategies.

Expenditures and FTE's allocated to each of these business areas are identified in the Resource Summary section, as follows.

Resource Summary

The Resource Summary outlines the estimated expenditures by core business area.

Core Business Areas	2004/05 Restated Estimates[1]	2005/06 Estimates	2006/07 Plan	2007/08 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Industry Competitiveness	4,540	4,841	4,591	4,591
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	4,702	6,416	5,916	5,716
Food Safety and Quality[2]	3,854	4,024	7,252	7,252
Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development[2]	2,546	2,497	6,668	6,668
Risk Management (includes Special Account)[3]	19,597	30,670	24,521	24,521
Executive and Support Services	8,051	8,152	8,152	8,152
Total[4]	**43,290**	**56,600**	**57,100**	**56,900**
Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)				
Industry Competitiveness	43	42	42	42
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	47	46	46	46
Food Safety and Quality	58	64	64	64
Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development	67	65	65	65
Risk Management	42	42	42	42
Executive and Support Services	69	71	71	71
Total	**326**	**330**	**330**	**330**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Industry Competitiveness	22	22	22	22
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	483	483	483	483
Food Safety and Quality	346	346	346	346
Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development	812	812	618	618
Risk Management	106	172	188	188
Executive and Support Services	88	88	88	88
Total	**1,857**	**1,923**	**1,745**	**1,745**

Core Business Areas	2004/05 Restated Estimates[1]	2005/06 Estimates	2006/07 Plan	2007/08 Plan
Other Financing Transactions ($000)				
Industry Competitiveness				
Agriculture Credit Act — Receipts	765	629	577	512
Risk Management (includes Special Account):				
Production Insurance Stabilization – Receipts[5]	3,000	—	—	—
Production Insurance Stabilization – Disbursements[5]	3,000	—	—	—
Total Net Cash Source	**765**	**629**	**577**	**512**

[1] These amounts have been restated for comparative purposes only to be consistent with the presentation of the *2005/06 Estimates*

[2] In 2004/05 and 2005/06, the federal/provincial Agriculture Policy Framework provided the ministry with recoveries in the Food Safety and Quality and Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development core business areas, enabling the ministry to direct additional funds to Risk Management programs to meet operational obligations. The actual recoveries and related increases in risk management expenditures are below:

	2004/05	2005/06
Food Safety and Quality	(2,724)	(3,378)
Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development	(4,334)	(4,171)
Risk Management	7,058	7,549
Total	**0**	**0**

[3] The Risk Management core business area expenditures increase to reflect the creation of the Production Insurance Special Account and the related premium expenses of $10.6 M in fiscal 2005/06 and $12.0 M in fiscals 2006/07 and 2007/08, as well as other minor adjustments.

[4] Total operating expenses for 2005/06 also increased to reflect funds provided for the Pacific Salmon Forum, for the development of a Bio-Security Level 3 laboratory, for aquaculture health initiatives, for enhancements to InfoBasket, for fairs and exhibitions and for enhanced bio-security measures.

[5] Production Insurance Stabilization funds are no longer required with the creation of the Production Insurance Special Account. The Special Account is supported by a statutory appropriation within the *Insurance for Crops Act*.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

A competitive and profitable industry that is environmentally and socially sustainable and provides safe, high-quality food for consumers and export markets.

Mission

Create a positive business climate for competitive, market-responsive, environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture, food and fisheries sectors, and safeguard B.C.'s ability to provide safe and high-quality agriculture and food products for consumers.

Values

The following values outline the fundamental beliefs of the ministry and describe how the organization and its employees interact with clients and each other. The ministry strives to conduct its business in a manner that is:

Fair and Equitable — Building and maintaining, among ministry personnel, an effective spirit of teamwork and co-operation based on trust, integrity, flexibility, innovation, social equity and equality of opportunity.

Responsible and Accountable — Emphasizing responsible use of government resources and transparency in accounting for the use of those resources.

Service-oriented — Responding to the needs of the public, agriculture and fisheries sector groups, communities and staff in a timely and courteous manner.

Partnership-Building — Promoting teamwork, good working relationships, effective partnerships and co-operation among all orders of government, First Nations, agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sector groups and communities.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

Government Strategic Goals

Safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment.
A strong and vibrant provincial economy.
A supportive social fabric.

Ministry Mission Statement

Create a positive business climate for competitive, market-responsive, environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture, food and fisheries sectors, and safeguard B.C.'s ability to provide safe and high-quality agriculture and food products for consumers.

Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures/Indicators
1. Agri-food and seafood sectors that are competitive in a global economy, and provide economic benefits and stability to British Columbia.	→	→ Dollar value of exports.
	1. Increased ability to access markets.	→ Per cent annual growth.
	2. Increased investment and innovation in the agri-food and seafood sectors.	→ Dollar value of industry investment.
2. Optimum benefits to British Columbia from marine fisheries and aquaculture.	1. A growing and well managed aquaculture sector.	→ 1. Compliance with Best Management Practices. 2. Increase in number of tenures.
	2. Competitive seafood processing, capture-fisheries and tidal recreational fisheries sectors.	→ Number of fisheries managed through a joint decision-making process.
3. Safe high-quality B.C. products, agri-food and seafood systems.	1. Production systems are protected against key diseases and pests, and associated risks to human health are minimized.	→ Database of pathogens, antimicrobial resistance and residues in the food chain and the environment.
	2. Agri-food and seafood industries are supported by sustainable safety and quality management systems.	→ Number of B.C.'s agriculture and seafood commodity groups implementing a national on-farm food and safety program.

Government Strategic Goals

Safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment.
A strong and vibrant provincial economy.
A supportive social fabric.

Ministry Mission Statement

Create a positive business climate for competitive, market-responsive, environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture, food and fisheries sectors, and safeguard B.C.'s ability to provide safe and high-quality agriculture and food products for consumers.

Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures/Indicators
4. Environmentally sustainable development of the agriculture, food and fisheries sectors.	1. Resource management practices maintain high environmental standards.	Number of farms with environmental farm plans.
	2. A positive regulatory climate within local government.	Level of local government support for agriculture and fisheries.
	3. Appropriate access to Crown land and foreshore for agriculture and aquaculture production.	1. Productive capacity of Crown Agricultural Land Reserve. 2. Increase in hectares of land for aquaculture use.
5. Reduced impact of income declines for farmers.		Minimize decline in farm incomes for agriculture sectors affected by disaster.
	1. A comprehensive risk management approach for farmers, providing a predictable response to uncontrollable and unpredictable disasters.	Level of participation in risk management programs, as measured by value of production of coverage for farms (with gross income greater than $50 k).
6. Effective policy frameworks, management systems and practices.	1. Effective policy frameworks.	1. Development of the B.C. food strategy, which includes the national food policy and ActNow B.C. 2. Development and finalization of the fisheries and aquaculture policy framework. 3. B.C.'s share of national quota for supply-managed commodities.

Goal 1: *Agri-food and seafood sectors that are competitive in a global economy, and provide economic benefits and stability to British Columbia.*

Industry competitiveness is a measure of how well an individual business or industry sector can profitably compete for market share in the domestic and/or export marketplace. B.C.'s agriculture, seafood, beverage and food products are produced for highly competitive domestic and global markets.

Competitiveness is affected by many factors including technology that can reduce costs or enhance quality, the regulatory environment such as labour and processing plant regulations and trade-related barriers or market preferences that can impact access to markets. In addition, trade and economic policy, industry/company infrastructure and associated growth strategies can also influence competitiveness.

Increased access to markets and a positive business and investment climate will support continued growth for B.C. in these sectors.

Core Business Area: *Industry Competitiveness*

Performance Measure:

Value of international exports: This measure monitors trends in the overall performance of B.C.'s agri-food and seafood sectors in the global economy.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
$ value of exports for agriculture, food and seafood products	$2.36 billion/year agriculture and seafood[1,2]	4% growth	4% growth	4% growth

[1] Source Statistics Canada.

[2] 2004/05 Base value data as at December 2003, December 2004 preliminary $ value of exports for agriculture, food and seafood products is available February 2005.

Objective 1: *Increased ability to access markets.*

Key strategies include:

- work with industry to identify opportunities for innovation and the development of niche markets and value chains through initiatives such as: the meat industry enhancement strategy, agri-tourism, B.C. Life Sciences and all 2010 strategies;
- work with industry to identify and remove obstacles relating to diversification; and
- reduce barriers to international and inter-provincial trade, and provide a level playing field by working to ensure that B.C. industry interests are considered in trade negotiations, agreements and disputes.

Performance Measure:

Per cent yearly growth: Performance is measured by monitoring growth in farm cash receipts for the agriculture sector, landed values for the fisheries sector and factory shipments for the food and beverage sector.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Annual growth in agriculture, food and fisheries sectors[1]	Agriculture: $2.278 billion farm cash receipts[3]	3% growth in farm cash receipts	3% growth in farm cash receipts	3% growth in farm cash receipts
	Fisheries and aquaculture: $653 million landed values[3]	Growth in landed values above a 4-year moving average[2]	Growth in landed values above a 4-year moving average[2]	Growth in landed values above a 4-year moving average[2]
	Food and beverage manufacturing: $5.981 billion in shipments[4]	3.5% growth in value of shipments	3.5% growth in value of shipments	3.5% growth in value of shipments

[1] Source: Statistics Canada and DFO.

[2] Because the primary fisheries sector is more volatile than the other two sectors (fluctuations in wild fish populations and prices, downturns in foreign markets that import eighty per cent of B.C. fish, etc.), annual growth achieved above a four-year moving average of landed values is a more reasonable measure of performance than annual change in landed values. A four-year moving average of landed values (2000-2003), based on the salmon cycle, is used to monitor performance in fisheries.

[3] 2004/05 Base values as at December 2003, 2004 fisheries and aquaculture landed values available July/August 2005.

[4] 2004/05 Base values are represented by 2003 calendar year farm cash receipt values; 2004 final farm cash receipt values available November 2005. Value of food and beverage manufacturing shipments (preliminary) available June 2005.

Objective 2: *Increased investment and innovation in the agri-food and seafood sectors.*

Key strategies include:

- promote self-funding mechanisms such as industry trusts or levies for producers, processors and other industry participants;
- facilitate investment and identify opportunities for industry diversification and innovation in areas such as the bio-based economy and seafood;
- endeavor to obtain the B.C. agri-food and seafood sector's fair share of federal and cross-government programs, initiatives and activities to promote research, exports and inward investment;
- reduce regulatory impediments; and
- increase use of Info-Basket, an online scientific, economic, business and statistical information source, through increased industry and public awareness.

Performance Measure:

Value of industry investment: The value of new investment in agriculture, food and fisheries sectors is used to assess the investment climate.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
$ value of industry investment	Agriculture: $179.3 million[1,3]	Growth above a 3-year rolling average level[2]	Growth above a 3-year rolling average level	Growth above a 3-year rolling average level
	Fisheries: $17.1 million[1, 3]	Growth above 3-year rolling average level[2]	Growth above 3-year rolling average level	Growth above 3-year rolling average level
	Food and beverage manufacturing: $126.7 million[1, 3]	Growth above a 3-year rolling average level[2]	Growth above a 3-year rolling average level	Growth above a 3-year rolling average level

[1] Source: Statistics Canada; note aquaculture $ not included in measure as it is not available at this time; however, Statistics Canada is addressing this issue.

[2] As investment is subject to fluctuations, the growth in investment achieved above the 3-year moving average level is a stronger indicator of performance than the growth in investment achieved annually.

[3] 2004/05 Base values stated are the average for 2001 – 2003, 2002 - 2004 values will be available February 2005.

Goal 2: *Optimum benefits to British Columbia from marine fisheries and aquaculture.*

Marine fisheries (recreational, commercial and processing) and aquaculture contribute substantially to the economy of B.C. and its coastal communities. The ministry is pursuing opportunities for growth through the increased value of the aquaculture and wild fisheries sectors while supporting environmental sustainability and creating and maintaining jobs in coastal communities.

Seafood and fisheries industries are challenging businesses, particularly given the prominent federal role in management and regulation. Since both federal and provincial governments have shared responsibility with respect to marine fisheries and aquaculture, effective relationships are necessary for sector development.

The sectors are subject to fluctuations in wild fish populations, ever-changing consumer preference, volatile market prices, changing international economic conditions, shifting government policy and intense competition. To remain competitive in a global economy, issues relating to security of access and sector capacity need to be addressed.

Core Business Area: *Fisheries and Aquaculture Management*

Objective 1: *A growing and well managed aquaculture sector.*

Key strategies include:

- identify opportunities for growth of aquaculture in the north and central coast areas of B.C. by undertaking capability assessments;
- rebuild capacity for research and development of aquaculture through funding and participation in programs and on committees including: the Federal Aquaculture Research and Development Program and the B.C. Aquaculture Research and Development Committee;
- facilitate and develop a harmonized shellfish strategy to address issues relating to trade, shellfish health, marketing and research and development;
- ensure existing and new finfish farms are appropriately located;
- build on recommendations of the Pacific Salmon Forum, identifying opportunities for increasing public confidence in the management of marine aquaculture and enhancing sustainability;
- foster opportunities to build an integrated compliance and enforcement regime for the aquaculture industry working with DFO; and
- continue to monitor, inspect and report on industry activities in order to achieve full compliance and enforce all regulatory and policy requirements for waste management and escape prevention.

Performance Measures:

Compliance with Best Management Practices (BMP) from aquaculture regulation: Finfish operators must develop and implement a Best Management Practices plan (BMP) for each of their marine finfish aquaculture facilities. The intent of the BMP is to prevent escapes of finfish to the environment and to provide better assurance that operators will meet environmental sustainability objectives.

Increase in number of tenures: The number of sites tenured for finfish and shellfish production provides a measure of growth for aquaculture development.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Compliance with best management practices (BMP) from aquaculture regulation	65% of sites in full compliance with BMP requirements[1, 2]	85% of sites	95% of sites	100% of sites
Increase in number of tenures				
Finfish tenures	138[1, 2]	150	155	160
Shellfish tenures	477[1, 2]	495	505	515

[1] Source: MAFF databases.

[2] Base value as at December 2004; 2004/05 base value is available March 31, 2005.

Objective 2: *Competitive seafood processing, capture-fisheries and tidal recreational fisheries sectors.*

Key strategies include:

- work with DFO, through the Pacific Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (PCFAM), to ensure federal policy reflects provincial objectives for the management of the pacific fisheries;
- increase market access through traceability of products, removal of non-tariff trade barriers, increased participation in third-party certification processes and facilitating industry access to federal international marketing programs;
- work with the federal government to act on the advice of the "Treaties in Transition (Pearse-McRae)" report and "Our Place at the Table" report; and
- lead ministry participation in cross-government coastal and ocean initiatives by representing B.C. fisheries and seafood industry interests.

Performance Measure:

Number of fisheries managed through a joint-decision making process: Economic sustainability is dependent on the level and certainty of access to resources. Measuring the increase in the number of B.C. fisheries[1] that the province directly influences through a joint decision-making process provides a strong measure in determining if B.C.'s interests concerning fair allocation and certainty of access to resources are represented.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Number of fisheries[1] managed through a joint decision-making process	Three fisheries[2]	Four fisheries	Five fisheries	Six fisheries

[1] Includes any commercial fishery; marine plants, finfish or shellfish.
[2] Source: MAFF.

Goal 3: *Safe high-quality B.C. products, agri-food and seafood systems.*

Profitability and growth within the agriculture, food and fisheries sectors depends on continued consumer confidence, access to markets and assurance that production systems and products are protected against key diseases and pests, and associated risks to human health are minimized. British Columbians continue to demand that government ensure that food production systems support public health goals.

The Canada-British Columbia Agriculture Policy Framework provides partial funding for national and B.C. specific food safety and food quality initiatives in support of achieving this goal.

Customers in B.C. and export markets are increasingly sensitive to food safety and quality issues and demand assurance that production systems are supported by sustainable safety and quality management systems through appropriate on-farm practices and quality management to ensure that risks are minimized.

Core Business Area: *Food Safety and Quality*

Objective 1: *Production systems are protected against key diseases and pests, and associated risks to human health are minimized.*

Key strategies include:

- in response to the AI crisis, work with government agencies and industry to develop a B.C. led national bio-security strategy;

- review and improve upon the emergency management program for foreign animal disease eradication;
- early diagnosis of animal, fish and plant diseases and pests, and activation of intervention plans to minimize economic losses; and
- strengthen prevention programs for food-borne health risks and pests of animals, fish and plants.

Performance Measure:

Database of animal and plant diseases in B.C.: Develop database, baseline information and surveillance for risk mitigation of public health.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Database of pathogens, antimicrobial resistance and residues in the food chain and the environment	Development of database	Completion of database	Baseline developed	Development of surveillance criteria

Objective 2: *Agri-food and seafood industries are supported by sustainable safety and quality management systems.*

Key strategies include:

- facilitate and support development of tracking/traceability systems that complement national systems for agri-food and seafood, from production through to retail;
- work with other government agencies such as: Ministry of Health, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to facilitate industry-led food safety and quality initiatives throughout the value chain;
- work with other government agencies such as: the Ministries of Water, Land and Air Protection and Sustainable Resource Management; as well as, CFIA and AAFC to sponsor initiatives to mitigate the impact of plant and animal diseases, invasive pests and plant species; and
- encourage industry development and adoption of food safety and quality programs, such as the wine standards, in agriculture, food and fisheries that enable B.C. to access domestic and global markets that recognize high quality standards.

Performance Measure:

Rate of adoption of national on-farm food safety and quality programs: Performance in relation to this objective is measured by examining progress in the implementation of national on-farm food safety and quality programs.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Number of B.C.'s agriculture and seafood commodity groups implementing a national on-farm food safety and quality program[1,2]	Three commodity groups[3]	Five commodity groups	Seven commodity groups	Ten commodity groups

[1] The Canada-British Columbia Agriculture Policy Framework provides funding to support continued improvement through risk analysis and mitigation in food production system practices through the implementation of national food safety and quality programs. The programs will provide additional assurance that B.C.'s food production systems remain safe, and higher quality standards will increase access to markets.

[2] Currently there are nineteen national programs in various stages. Six programs have passed technical review and are ready for implementation, and thirteen are under development. Of the six that have passed technical review, three are now in the implementation stages in B.C.

[3] Source: MAFF and CFIA.

Goal 4: *Environmentally sustainable development of the agriculture, food and fisheries sectors.*

In order to achieve the long-term economic potential of agriculture, food and fisheries sectors, growth must be environmentally and socially sound. The long-term sustainability of the sectors will depend on continued consumer, market and community support.

British Columbia has long been recognized for its leadership in environmentally sound farm practices through the development and adoption of integrated pest management and best waste management practices. The Canada-British Columbia Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) provides funding to support continued improvement of these practices through Environmental Farm Planning (EFP), documenting the high level of commitment to environmentally sustainable practices adopted by B.C. farmers.

The ministry also supports stronger links between local governments, the farm community and the province to address farming issues through the Strengthening Farming Program. A positive regulatory environment within local government can encourage investment and ensure production practices are responsible.

Some agriculture and aquaculture enterprises depend upon access to, and use of, Crown land tenures for their operations. The ministry will work to ensure that the productive capacity of these Crown lands is maintained, and opportunities for expansion of agriculture and aquaculture production that rely on this access and resources are realized.

Core Business Area: *Environmental Sustainability and Resource Development*

Objective 1: *Resource management practices maintain high environmental standards.*

Key strategies include:

- promote the development and use of environmental farm plans on farms;
- continue to update B.C.'s standards, policies and regulations maximizing environmental performance of the aquaculture industry;
- develop a provincial strategy for disposal of specified risk material; and
- contribute to provincial strategies on water, drought and weed management, and address wildlife-farm interface issues.

Performance Measure:

Number of farms with environmental farm plans: Progress towards this objective is measured by the rate of adoption of EFP's by farm businesses. Adoption of EFP's can include both completion and implementation of a plan. An EFP is considered implemented when the farm has addressed all regulatory non-compliance issues identified in the plan. The plan is considered completed when both the risk assessment and the action plan have been completed, and it has been signed off by a recognized Planning Advisor.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Number of farms with environmental farm plans[1,2]	450 farms with completed environmental farm plans[3]	1,400	2,400	3,000
	400 farms with implemented plans[3]	800	1,100	1,400

[1] Currently there are 9,000 commercial farms.

[2] EFP's build on the farmers' understanding of agriculturally related environmental regulations and farm management practices that enhance environmental values. It is a form of risk assessment and liability management that also enables farmers to access incentive-based program funding.

[3] Source: MAFF.

Objective 2: *A positive regulatory climate within local government.*

Key strategies include:

- review local government bylaws and develop standards to ensure that bylaws are fair and supportive to agriculture and aquaculture;

- develop a consultative process with local government to strengthen farming that addresses issues of concern to local government;
- work with local government to enhance the contribution that both agriculture and aquaculture sectors make to the community; and
- support the formation and operation of local agriculture advisory committees that provide local government with advice on land use, planning and regulation and other issues affecting agriculture and aquaculture sectors. In addition, develop relationship with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to improve awareness of agriculture and aquaculture sectors needs.

Performance Measure:

Level of local government support for agriculture and fisheries: The ministry has developed an evaluation index to support performance measurement against this objective. The index considers many different aspects of local government policies and programs, bylaws and zoning and develops an overall rating of the effect the Strengthening Farming Program is having on the local government.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Level of local government support for agriculture and fisheries	Upgraded Evaluation Index developed and baseline established[1]	Improvement in evaluation index over previous year		

[1] The 2003/04 Evaluation Index tool had to be redesigned. In 2003/04 we tested the original tool with four local governments. In 2004/05 we developed and then used the upgraded Evaluation Index on forty-nine local governments.

Objective 3: *Appropriate access to Crown land and foreshore for agriculture and aquaculture production.*

Key strategies include:

- work with Land and Water B.C. Inc. to secure access to Crown land for agriculture and aquaculture, and facilitate the development and productive use of these lands; and
- participate with the Ministry of Forests and other agencies to maintain and enhance access to Crown forage and rangelands for livestock grazing.

Performance Measures:

Productive capacity of Crown Agricultural Land Reserve: A key measure of access to Crown lands is the Crown land production capacity available to the agriculture sector for grazing. The focus for this objective is to measure capacity in terms of Animal Unit Months, which is the amount of forage consumed by a mature cow (with or without a calf up to six months of age) during one month.

Increase in hectares of land for shellfish and finfish aquaculture use: Increased access to Crown land and foreshore for aquaculture development is best measured by the increase in hectares of Crown land used for shellfish and finfish aquaculture production.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Productive capacity of Crown Agricultural Land Reserve	Approximately 948,529 Animal Unit Months of grazing capacity[1, 2]	Maintain Animal Unit Months of grazing capacity (graze, hay-cutting and forage in-growth).		
Increase in hectares of land for aquaculture use				
Finfish	2,400[3, 4]	2,472	2,546	2,623
Shellfish	2,990[3, 4]	3,350	3,650	3,950

[1] Source: British Columbia Ministry of Forests.
[2] Base value as at December 2003; December 2004 values will be available March 2005.
[3] Source: Land and Water B.C.
[4] Data provided as at December 2004; 2004/05 available March 2005.

Goal 5: *Reduced impact of income declines for farmers.*

Core Business Area: *Risk Management*

Weather hazards, natural disasters, diseases, pests and market declines pose significant risks to producers of agricultural products. All of these risks can cause losses and lead to income instability in specific commodities. An ongoing challenge for government is to develop policies and services that farmers can use to reduce the impact of income declines and provide government and farmers with a sustainable and predictable response to such crises. A long-term comprehensive approach to managing risk for farmers supports sector development.

The Canada-British Columbia Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) commits dedicated funding for two primary risk management programs: Production Insurance and the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program. Production Insurance is an insurance program providing coverage for weather-related losses for individual farmers. CAIS provides income stabilization and disaster support to farmers to reduce the impact of income declines that are beyond the farmer's ability to control.

The ministry is responsible for program design and delivery of Production Insurance and is responsible for marketing and promotion of risk management programs (CAIS and Production Insurance) to achieve high levels of participation.

Performance Measure:

Minimal decline in farm incomes: Performance is measured by monitoring farm incomes for sectors affected by disasters. Since programs can cover all crops and livestock production, disaster impacts on income will be measured by the annual deviation of gross incomes from the previous five-year average in the crops and livestock sectors respectively.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Minimize decline in farm incomes for agriculture sectors affected by disaster	Farm cash receipts: Crops: 0.983 billion[1, 2] Livestock: 1.102 billion[1, 2] 2004 Estimate: Crops: 25.3% above the 5-year average.[3] Livestock: 11.5% below the 5-year average.[3]	Reduced annual deviation from previous 5-year average.	Reduced annual deviation from previous 5-year average.	Reduced annual deviation from previous 5-year average.

[1] Source Statistics Canada.
[2] 2004/05 Base values stated are the five-year average December 1999–December 2003; December 2000–December 2004 values are available as a preliminary in March 2005 and as a final in November 2005.
[3] AAFC forecast estimate. Preliminary numbers will be available in March 2005 and as a final in November 2005.

Objective 1: *A comprehensive risk management approach for farmers, providing a predictable response to uncontrollable and unpredictable disasters.*

Key strategies include:

- maximize farmer participation in CAIS and Production Insurance programs;
- create partnerships with the private sector in the development and delivery of risk management programs such as a disease eradication program fund for the poultry sector;
- examine alternate delivery options to manage insurance-based risk management programs in British Columbia; and
- continue to support the beef and other ruminant sectors to meet the challenges of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), particularly through a national repositioning strategy.

Performance Measure:

Level of participation in risk management programs: The ministry will measure the extent to which farmers are purchasing risk management products. The primary risk management products are CAIS and Production Insurance. Farms with a gross income over $50,000 are of greatest interest since they tend to encompass the vast majority of farms that are operated as a business (as opposed to hobby farmers).

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Level of participation in risk management programs, as measured by value of production of coverage for farms (with gross income > 50 k):				
CAIS	81%	80% of farmers (greater than $50 k gross income) enrolled[1]		
Production Insurance	76%	70% of farmers (greater than $50 k gross income) enrolled[1]		

[1] Targets represent the national standard for the minimum level of coverage to minimize risk of ad hoc demands for assistance in the face of natural disaster for farmers.

Goal 6: *Effective policy frameworks, management systems and practices.*

The agriculture, food and fisheries sectors operates in a complex legislative, policy and regulatory environment that involves provincial ministries and agencies, federal government, local government and First Nations communities. The ministry continues to focus on improving the functionality of its policy frameworks focussing on: the development of the national food policy and ActNow B.C., and the finalization of the fisheries and aquaculture policies.

B.C. has confirmed support for the regulated marketing system on the basis of economic benefits to the province. B.C. is actively pursuing improvements to the national supply management systems to advance to a more market responsive approach, with the objective of providing further opportunities for growth and development in the province.

Core Business Area: *Executive and Support Services*

Objective 1: *Effective policy frameworks.*

Key strategies include:

- complete the refinement and the implementation of the economic and governance policy frameworks for regulated marketing to ensure accountability;
- establish a protocol with UBCM regarding consultation for application of the right to farm system for aquaculture;
- develop a strategic policy framework for the aquaculture and fisheries sectors with Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management;

- develop a strategic policy for the eating healthy component of ActNow B.C. and for an emerging discussion around a new direction for national food policy;
- develop a agri-food bio-products policy working with the federal government, Ministry of Advanced Education and Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development;
- achieve a fair allocation for B.C. supply-managed commodities based on their market share; and
- maintain profile of B.C.'s interests through representation on Federal/Provincial/Territorial committees such as: the Federal-Provincial Secretariat, the Federal-Provincial Marketing Development Committee and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agri-food Inspection Committee.

Performance Measures:

Development of B.C. food strategy and development and finalization of fisheries and aquaculture policy framework: A key measure of the success for the ministry is the documentation of policies, the development of new corporate strategies and policies and the communication and advancement of them through effective influence of other agencies, interests and levels of government that affect the ability of the ministry to achieve its goals.

B.C.'s share of national quota allocation for supply-managed commodities: Progress towards this objective is measured by monitoring B.C.'s share of the total Canadian production of some supply-managed commodities. The economic policy directs the regulated system to seek and achieve a fair allocation for B.C. producers based on their market share.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Development of the B.C. food strategy, which includes the national food policy and ActNow B.C.		Completion of food strategy documentation and strategy implementation plan	Commence implementation	Ongoing implementation, monitoring and continuous improvement
Development and finalization of the fisheries and aquaculture policy framework		Completion of fisheries and aquaculture strategy documentation and strategy implementation plan	Commence implementation	Ongoing implementation, monitoring and continuous improvement
B.C.'s share of national quota for supply-managed commodities[1]	Milk – 8.3%[2] Chicken – 15.8%[2] Turkey – 10.6%[2] Eggs – 11.4%[2] Broiler egg – 17%[2]	Progress towards 2006/07 target	Milk – 9% Chicken – 16% Turkey – 12% Eggs – 12% Broiler egg – 17%	Milk – 10% Chicken – 17% Turkey – 13% Eggs – 13% Broiler egg – 18%

[1] Source: MAFF.

[2] Base data as at December 2003.

Related Initiatives and Planning Processes

Deregulation and Regulatory Reform

The table below lists the ministry's most significant deregulation and regulatory reform initiatives that aim to ensure British Columbia's regulatory climate enables economic development and innovation.

Objective	Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Shift from prescriptive to results-based approach to regulation	Regulations and Orders in Council enacted	Regulatory requirements under review: *plant protection, agricultural product grading, livestock*	Regulatory changes as completed	Regulatory changes as completed	Regulatory changes as completed
Zero per cent increase to regulatory burden throughout 2005/06	Regulatory requirements maintained at June 2004 baseline	2,797 regulatory requirements (June 2004 baseline)	2,797 regulatory requirements (zero per cent increase)	2,797 regulatory requirements (zero per cent increase)	2,797 regulatory requirements (zero per cent increase)

Overview of Human Resource Management Plan and Information Resource Management Plan

Overview of Human Resource Management Plan

The ministry Human Resource Management Plan overview is available on the ministry website at:

http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/planning/hrp.pdf

Information Resource Management Plan

The ministry Information Resource Management Plan overview is available on the ministry website at:

http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/planning/irmp.pdf